

Sunday, October 4, 2020
18th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS *To the glory of God in celebration of Jim Farrell's birthday*

Pam Farrell

PRELUDE

"And the Song Was of the Morning"

Gilbert Martin

Sharon Gray, organ

APOSTLES' CREED

☑ I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen!

WELCOMING SONG

"We Praise You, O God"

ELW 870

We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.

With you, Lord, beside us,
your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

GREETING

- ☐ *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*
- ☑ **And also with you.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Glory

pg. 204

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ *Beloved God,*
- ☑ **from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Gentle Shepherd"

Bill & Gloria Gaither

Nancy Lewis, soprano

Phil Lewis, harmonica

FIRST READING – Nancy Lewis, reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

¹Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

Reflection

This text is in the form of a love-song. What is the love-song about? (verse 1) How did the vineyard owner plant and keep the vineyard? (verses 1-2) What was the owner's expectation of the vineyard? What actually happened in the vineyard? The singer invites someone to judge between the owner and the vineyard. Who is that someone? (verse 4) What questions does the singer ask about the care of the vineyard? (verse 4) What will happen to the vineyard? (verses 5-6) Now, in verse 7, we get to the point of this song/parable. Who does the vineyard stand for? (verse 7) What did the owner (God) expect? What did the owner get? Do you think the people to whom this parable/song was addressed got it? What kind of "vineyard" describes your life? Our life as a congregation?

Psalm 80:7-15 – read together with Bruce Taylor

- ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ⁸You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.
- ⁹You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.
- ¹⁰The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.
- ¹¹You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.
- ¹²Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
- ¹³The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
- ¹⁴Turn now, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven;
- ¹⁵behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.

Reflection

What is the prayer of the psalmist, speaking for the people? (verse 7) In this psalm, we hear the same “song” or parable that is in our Isaiah text—only now we hear from the people.

What/who is the vine God brought out of Egypt and planted it where other nations had been cast out? (verse 8—this rehearses the story told in Exodus, Joshua and Judges) What happened to the vine that God planted? (verses 9-11) What is the people’s question now? (verses 12-13) What do they pray for? (verses 14-15) If we were the vineyard, what would have happened to us? What would we be praying for?

SECOND READING – Ann Newman, reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ’s resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make

it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reflection

Is Paul ashamed of what he was before he met Christ? (verses 4b-6) What did he have to be confident about “in the flesh”? (Remember that “flesh” for Paul means whatever we might look to save us besides Christ.) Then comes a yet/but....How does he regard those things that made him confident before he knew Christ? (verse 7) How does he think now of the things he thought he had done well before? (verse 8) What gives him confidence now? (verses 9-10) What will he attain (arrive at) because of Christ’s death? (verse 11) How does he have confidence in this now? (verse 12) How has this changed his outlook on life? (verses 13-14) What are the things that might give you confidence in the flesh? What does it mean to you that none of those things will save you, but that the gift of faith in Christ will bring us to the goal of our life?

GOSEPL ACCLAMATION

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

ELW 172

☒ Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

[Jesus said to the people:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was

speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Reflection

In this text, Jesus tells a parable that reminds us of the text from Isaiah. What did the landowner do? (verse 33) In whose care does the landowner leave the vineyard? What does the landowner expect? (verse 34) What do the tenants do? (verse 35) Does the landowner react in kind? (verse 36) What then does the landowner do? (verse 37) What do the tenants then do? What do they expect to happen? (verses 38-39) What should they have expected? (verses 40-41) What does Jesus say will happen to the "tenants"? (verses 42-44) To whom does Jesus tell this parable? (verse 45) How do they receive it? (verse 46) What kind of tenants are we? What makes you think what you think?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

Rev. Keith Hohly

SONG OF THE DAY

"We Give Thee but Thine Own"

ELW 686

**We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

**May we thy bounties thus
as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us,
to thee our first fruits give.**

**The captive to release,
to God the lost to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace—
it is a Christlike thing.**

**And we believe thy word,
though dim our faith may be:
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
we do it unto thee.**

PRAYER SONG

"Hear Our Prayer"

ELW 178

**Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:
peace to all people, hope for each soul.
God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – led by Janice & Howard Harmsen

We remember in our prayers

Janet, Marge, Roy, Pamma Williams, Sonny Thompson, Tom Farrell, Cathy Michaelis, Marlene Hebb, Ann Newman, Jerry Harmsen, Scott Correa, Savannah Rousch, Lynn Ann Flora, Kira & Kaitlyn Wall, Andy Wilson, Reed Nelson, Ashley Sollars, Nancy Reder, Dorothy Masteller, Phil Lewis, David Bezona, Dee Rasmussen, the family of Theresa Garner, the family of Gilda Jones, those affected by wildfires in the western United States and those affected by storms in the Gulf

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

*Holy God, you call us to work for peace and justice in your vineyard. Refresh the church with your life, that we may bear fruit through work and service. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*Thank you for the abundant harvest of the earth. Bless and care for those whose hands bring the fruits of the earth to the tables of all who hunger. May we be inspired by your servants who cared deeply for your creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*Curb the impulses of greed and pride that lead us to take advantage of others. Grant that world leaders seek the fruits of the kingdom for the good and welfare of all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*Sustain all who suffer with the promise of new life. Assured of your presence, heal our pain and suffering, and equip us to embrace all bodies aching for wholeness of mind, body, and soul. We call to mind those who are struggling today. In the midst of a global crisis, we look to you for strength, hope and help in fighting the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for those stricken with this disease and those who are treating them, for those mourning the loss of life and those facing death, and for those who urgently work to find effective treatments for cure. We lift up to you those in our faith community needing your care: Janet, Marge, Roy, Pamma, Sonny, Tom, Cathy, Marlene, Ann, Jerry, Scott, Savannah, Lynn Ann, Kira & Kaitlyn, Andy, Reed, Ashley, Nancy, Dorothy, Phil, David, Dee, the family of Theresa Garner, the family of Gilda Jones, those affected by wildfires in the western United States, those affected by storms in the Gulf, and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*We pray for all managers in our community and for all who seek employment. Give hope and a future to those who lack meaningful work, those who have been marginalized or abused in the workplace, and those who desire new opportunities. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*Thank you for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in your vineyard. May our chorus join theirs until our labor is complete. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.*

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P *Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.*

C **Amen!**

P *Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Faithful God,*

C **have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!

P *God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.*

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

*Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.*

C **Amen!**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

C **And also with you!**

DIALOGUE

- P** *The Lord be with you.*
C **And also with you.**
- P** *Lift up your hearts.*
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

- P** *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW 190

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

- P** *In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread
and gave thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.*
- Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this in remembrance of me.*

LORD'S PRAYER

☩ Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☩ *Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink. All are welcome.*

COMMUNION

BLESSING

☩ *May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.*

☩ Amen!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☩ *We give you thanks, gracious God,*
☩ that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen!

BENEDICTION

☩ *Mothering God,*
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

☩ Amen!

SENDING SONG

“Let There Be Praise”

Let there be praise
Let there be joy in our hearts
Sing to the Lord
Give Him the glory
Let there be praise
Let there be joy in our hearts
Forevermore let His love fill the air
And let there be praise

DISMISSAL – Jeff Langdon

- P** *Go in peace. Serve the Lord.*
- G** **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“Just As I Am, Without One Plea”
Sharon Gray, piano

arr. Mark Hayes

First Lutheran Church
302 South 10th St.
St. Joseph, MO 64503 / 816-232-8378 / flcsj302@gmail.com
www.flcsj.org
Rev. Keith Hohly, Interim Pastor

Instruments: Drums – Bruce Taylor | Piano and Organ – Sharon Gray | Guitar – Jim Pierce

Song leaders and vocal talents: Sharmyn Thompson, Rev. Keith Hohly, Deb Hohly,
Dave Newman, Jeff Langdon, Phil Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Jim Pierce, Juel Pierce, Jim Bunge
and Carol Bunge

Reflections on Today's Readings written by Rev. Juel Pierce

Music and Liturgy:

*"We Praise You, O God" ELW #870 | Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963
Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

*ELW Setting 10 Glory ELW pg. 204 | From sundaysandseasons.com
Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

*"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" ELW #172 | Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

*"Hear Our Prayer" ELW #178 | Text: Paul Andress, b. 1956
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

*"We Give Thee but Thine Own" ELW #686 | Text: William W. How, 1823 – 1897, alt.
Music: L. Mason and G. Webb, Cantica Lauda, 1850
Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

*"Holy, Holy, Holy" ELW #190 | Text: Franz Schubert, 1797 - 1828
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

*"Let There Be Praise" | CCLI Song # 20670 | Dick Tunney | Melodie Tunney
© 1985 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)
Pamela Kay Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
For use solely with the SongSelect®. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com
CCLI License # 1206797*

*New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches
of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.*

*All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.
Used by permission.*

*Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS015552*

CCLI License # 1206797